The Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights

Dinah Shelton

Geneva, February 2012
Temperature Records
(Deviation from 1951-1980 mean)

Source: NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Surface Temperature Analysis at data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/
Key Threats

• Food Shortages and Famine
• Spread of Diseases
• Weather Disasters
• Water: Too much or Too Little
• Loss of Housing and Shelter
• Cultural Extinction
• Climate Driven Migration
Andean Glaciers

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hp/picture_gallery/05/sci_nat/how_the_world_is_changing/html/1.stm
The Climate-Changed Bolivian Andean Communities

http://gu.com/p/273vq
Increase of drought under climate change

©University of Copenhagen, 2006. Created from MetOffice/Hadley Centre data.
Crop yields are projected to decrease in the tropics and subtropics, but increase at high latitudes.

Percentage change in average crop yields for a mid-range climate change scenario.

Even as soon as 2020 crop yields in SSA and parts of Asia are projected to decrease by up to 20%. 
Vulnerability of Delta Populations
### Direction and magnitude of selected health impacts of climate change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Negative impact</th>
<th>Positive impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Very high confidence</strong></td>
<td>Malaria: contraction and expansion, changes in transmission season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High confidence</strong></td>
<td>Increase in malnutrition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase in the number of people suffering from deaths, disease and injuries from extreme weather events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase in the frequency of cardio-respiratory diseases from changes in air quality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change in the range of infectious disease vectors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduction of cold-related deaths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium confidence</strong></td>
<td>Increase in the burden of diarrhoeal diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A RISING TIDE OF SUFFERING

Numbers of people affected by climate-related disasters 1980–2007 with forecast to 2015
Displacements
Oakland Hills Fire 1992
Hurricane Katrina
WELCOME HOME
Lower 9th Ward
RESIDENTS

WELCOME TO THE LOWER 9TH WARD
GET OUT OF THE CAR
LEND US AN EAR, GIVE US A HAND
DONATIONS NEEDED
“Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being.”

Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration
Determinants of well-being linked to ecosystem services (Duraiappah 2002)

- Adequate nutrition.
- Freedom from avoidable disease.
- An environmentally clean and safe home.
- Adequate and clean drinking water.
- Clean air.
- Sufficient energy for cooking and heating.
- Access to traditional medicines.
- Ability to use natural elements for traditional cultural and spiritual practices.
- Ability to cope with extreme natural events including floods, tropical storms and landslides.
- Ability to achieve a sustainable income stream.
Thank You